



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 • 415 864-8000 • FAX 415 431-5860 • E-MAIL office@annunciation.org

December 2003

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ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS VISITS CATHEDRAL, CELEBRATES THE DIVINE LITURGY AND PRESIDES OVER VESPERS; SPEAKS AT IOCC DINNER

November 23rd will go down in the annals of the Annunciation Cathedral as an historic and memorable day. **Archbishop Demetrios**, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the first time as Archbishop at the Annunciation Cathedral and presided over pan-Orthodox Vespers. On both occasions, the chapel, resounding with the magnificent music offered by the Cathedral Choir, was packed to overflowing. While four clergy--with **Metropolitan Anthony** and **Bishop Anthimos** in attendance--concelebrated the Divine Liturgy in the morning, more than thirty

attended the Vespers. What a wonderful sight it was, clergy and faithful from all the jurisdictions, a testimony to the unity of Orthodoxy.

In the evening, His Eminence astounded the audience at the dinner for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities), with his insights and anecdotes. One could hear a pin drop as a record crowd of just under 500 (more than at any IOCC dinner in the 11 year history of the organization) listened to the Archbishop invite our engagement with God and with our fellow man in the midst of an otherwise precarious world, marked by unpredictability, self-interest, and ideo-

logical bankruptcy. The audience was entertained by award-winning pianist, **Eleni Dafeka**, with a flawless rendering of Liszt, a **Balalaika** ensemble, Annunciation's **Filadelfakia** and **Kymata** and the dance troupe from **St. John's Church** in Orinda, which performed a medley of Greek and Arabic dances, respectively. All proceeds go to providing people in war-torn areas of the world, as well as those experiencing drought and other crises, with food, clothing, and medicine.

Since its inception eleven years ago, IOCC has distributed more than \$140 million in aid to people in over thirty countries.



Archbishop Demetrios, shown with His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony during his visit to San Francisco

NINE RUN FOR PARISH COUNCIL

There are nine candidates for Parish Council. On Sunday, December 14, Parishioners in Good Standing, ecclesiastically and with respect to their stewardship, will have the opportunity to vote for up to eight of them to a two year term, beginning January 1, 2004.

Following ratification of the elections by Metropolitan Anthony, the eight who receive the top votes will take their oath of office at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 28. Then, they will meet with the seven members who were elected to a two year term last year and elect their officers for 2004.

The candidates, all members in good standing of the Cathedral, and qualified to serve, are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Michael Bagatelos | 6. Nicholas Svetcoff |
| 2. Philip Chiappari | 7. George Vlahos |
| 3. Dina Koutoulas | 8. James D. Vorris |
| 4. Thomas Nuris | 9. Gus Vouchilas |
| 5. Nikolas Stathopoulos | |

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU

The Parish Council, in concert with the Stewardship Committee, has decided to handle Stewardship 2004 a little differently. You recall how, year after year, we send out Stewardship Pledge Cards and wait for months on end for you to complete and return those pledge cards. It's sometimes June and we're still printing lists of stewards for the Herald. 500 to 600 names in all. By July, we're all exhausted. People go on vacation. Then, we come back in September and get into the swing of the Food Festival. After we recuperate from the Festival, we begin thinking about stewardship for the following year. And so it goes.

Beginning January 1, 2004, you will not need to fill out a new pledge card to renew your membership, if you are currently pledged members of the Cathedral. We will simply duplicate your 2003 pledge for 2004. Unless, of course,

you choose to change your pledge. A letter is about to go out explaining all of that. The letter gives us the opportunity to add just \$10 a month to our pledge. If everyone does this, we could generate an additional \$84,000 for the year. Yes, this is not a misprint. The letter explains how. (The old adage holds true here, Fasouli, fasouli, gemizi to sakouli. Translated: one bean at a time; before you know it, the sack is full.)

Another letter will go out to those who are not currently pledged members of the Cathedral. This letter will be accompanied by a pledge card, a return envelope, and a brochure explaining the Cathedral's stewardship program. Our Stewardship Committee will pay special attention to this group of parishioners--those who love the Lord and the Church but who, for one reason or another, just overlook their stewardship. Our goal is to enroll everyone as stewards. There are many advantages to being a steward. Foremost is the

satisfaction one has from contributing to the work of the church. Annunciation is the great parish that it is, doing the great things that it does, because of you and because of your support. By being a steward, you also receive priority in booking the hall for your events--baptisms, weddings, anniversaries or other receptions. In addition, you get things that others booking the hall do not get--the waiving of certain fees, extra linens and the like. Finally, you're not faced with fees--you know, so much for documents (baptismal or wedding transcripts and the like, likely to be \$25 each), or for baptisms and funerals (likely to be \$500), or for weddings (likely to be \$1000).

Soon, we will be facing the challenges of building for the future. This will all come about, in due time. With your participation and commitment, and the strength that comes from all of us being united in a common cause, the cause of Jesus Christ and his Church.

PARISH ASSEMBLY HEARS REPORTS, RECEIVES NOMINATIONS, REVAMPS BOARD OF ELECTIONS

At our second Parish Assembly for 2003, held Wednesday, November 19, a number of reports were offered on the state of the Cathedral. Among them were the Treasurer's Report, which presented a complete financial report for 2002, noting that total salaries and utilities actually came in below budget, on the expenditures side and income from rental of the hall actually exceeded the budgeted amount, on the income side. However, we experienced an overall operating deficit of \$25,870, total receipts for the year being \$485,529, and total operating expenditures being \$511,400. On the other hand, Building Fund receipts for the year came to \$254,436. Mortgage interest for the year came to \$78,444. The Board of Auditors, consisting of Robert Larson, Cathy Peterson and Maria Ossipoff, then confirmed the accuracy of the financial report, noting that they found every thing to be in good order. Afterwards, the

Assembly received into nomination the slate presented by the Nominating Committee, consisting of Anne Mountanos, Pat Destein, Helen Markanton, Maria Georgiou and Annette Chiappari and augmented the Board of Elections, which will prepare the ballots and oversee the December 14 elections. This committee is comprised of Andrew Vellis, Ted Leventis, Helen Markanton and Louise Vorrisen.

PRE-LENTEN SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT THE CATHEDRAL

Save the Dates: February 21 and 22, 2004. The Reverend Dr. John Chryssagis will be guest speaker at the Cathedral, both for Saturday the 21st, when he will address the topic of Forgiveness as well as for the Divine Liturgy on Godparents Sunday, February 22nd, at which time he will deliver the sermon.

A renown speaker, author, and lecturer, Deacon John studied theology in Athens and at Oxford. He served as professor of theology at St. Andrew's Theological College in Sydney as well as at Holy Cross School of Theology in

Boston. His most recent publications include *Soul Mending: The Art of Spiritual Direction* (Holy Cross Press, 2000), *In the Heart of the Desert: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers* (World Wisdom Books, 2002), and *Letters from the Desert: A selection from Barsanuphius and John* (St. Vladimir's Press, 2003).

For more information, call: Annunciation Cathedral, at 415 864-8000 or Eleni Tsagaris, Retreat Coordinator, at 415 613-4303 (after 6 p.m.)

FATHER STEPHEN TO ATTEND SAE CONFERENCE

Upon the recommendation of His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, Archbishop Demetrios has asked Father Stephen to serve as a delegate to this year's SAE (Council of Hellenes Abroad) Conference. The conference will take place in Thessalonike, Greece. Father Gregory will celebrate the Divine Liturgy during Father Stephen's absence, on Sunday, December 7, and on Sunday, December 14.

Father Stephen will return on Monday, December 15.

PHILOPTOCHOS EVENTS

The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society wishes to apprise the community of the following events sponsored by the Philoptochos, and invites your participation:

Thurs., 12/11/03 6:30 p.m.
 General Meeting 2nd Floor Conf. Room
 Fri., 1/9/04 8:30 a.m.
 Prepare the Vasilopites
 Sun., 1/11/04 Noon
 Holiday Lunch/Vasilopita
 Thurs., 1/15/04 1:00 p.m.
 General Meeting 2nd Floor Conf. Room
 Fri., 1/23/04 6:00 p.m.
 Annual Crabfeed
 Thurs., 2/12/04 6:30 p.m.
 General Meeting 2nd Floor Conf. Room
 Thurs., 3/11/04 1:00 p.m.
 General Meeting 2nd Floor Conf. Room
 Thurs., 3/25/04 Noon
 Annunciation Luncheon
 Sun., 4/11/04
 Orthodox and Western Easter
 Thurs., 4/15/04 6:30 p.m.
 General Meeting 2nd Floor Conf. Room
 Sat., 5/8/04 11:30 a.m.
 Mother's Day Luncheon/Fashion Show

**RECENT SERVICES
AT THE CATHEDRAL****BAPTISMS**

Alexandra Beatrice, daughter of Steven Gregory Dallas and Madeleine Helene Lubic, was baptized on October 24. Her Godparents are Clare and Nick Wittwer.
 (Emergency baptism; chrismation was not administered.)

Christopher, son of David G. Hewitt and Elaine Demakas, was baptized on November 2.. His Godparent is Paula Kitses.

Kalliope Alexandra, daughter of Phillip James Maragoulas and Theresa Ann Silva, was baptized on November 22.. Her Godparents are Spiro and Kallie Makras.

*Na Mas Zisoun
 (Long life!)*

MARRIAGE

The marriage of Anthony

Mathios and Patricia McNulty was blessed on November 29. Their sponsor is Alexis Pelosi.

Na Mas Zisoun!

FUNERAL

Gus Nicholas Calofonos, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 11, was buried November 18.

Next of kin are his brother, Dennis Calofonos, and daughters Angelica Calofonos and Katherine Creekmore.

*Aionia aftou i mnimi!
 May his memory be eternal!*

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

We are pleased to note that, each Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, **Marina Taylor** will conduct a Bible Study (for the most part, in Greek) in the second floor conference room.

The Bible Study is open to all.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD 2003: DECEMBER 7 IS THE LAST SUNDAY

We are pleased to announce that this year's Community Christmas Card effort is going rather well. **Annette Chiappari** and **Foula Vasilogiorgis** are leading the effort, gathering your names during the coffee hours on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy. You may prefer, instead, to send in your names. Please do so by completing the form below and forwarding it to the Cathedral as shown together with your donation of \$25. This donation will help defray the cost of printing and mailing the cards and will

serve as your Christmas gift to the Cathedral. (Of course, if you prefer, you may contribute additional amounts when you receive your Christmas offering envelope and your 2004 Church calendar.)

We thank you for your support of the Community Christmas Card project. Just think: by sending a modest gift of \$25 you will be extending Christmas greetings to all of your fellow-communicants (over 1600 of them!), without all the fuss of stuffing envelopes and writing greetings...we'll do that for you.

Yes, please list me/us in the 2003 Community Christmas card.

Name (as you wish it to appear): _____

Telephone number: _____

Please make your check of \$25 (for each line) payable to: Annunciation Cathedral
 and mail together with this form to: Community Christmas Card,
 245 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

December 7 is the last Sunday we can take names. -
 After this date, the list of names is compiled and sent to the printer.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School teachers and students are busy preparing for Christmas:

Food Drive

Currently, we are participating in a canned food drive, through the San Francisco Food Bank. We invite the entire parish to participate, remembering the words of the Lord: "As you have done it to the least of these, my brethren, you have done it to me." Please encourage your children to bring in a can or two of food for "the least of these". Our goal is to make our children aware of the fact that there are hungry people all around us and that each one of us can make a difference, just by providing one meal for one hungry person.

Christmas Program

Sunday School is preparing for the Christmas Program, to be held on Sunday, December 14, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Students take part in the program as readers, singers, or even as angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, or any of the other familiar Christmas figures. This year's new production promises to be our best ever. Therefore, the children will need to commit to a one-hour rehearsal after church on Sunday, December 7, and a 10 a.m. rehearsal on Sunday, December 14th, the day of the program. Please encourage your children's participation and attendance at these rehearsals.

Following the program on the 14th, we will offer our complimentary luncheon, as in past years, as well as arts and crafts and other activities for the children. Of course, (if we're nice), we will be visited by Santa. What a wonderful family event! We look forward to seeing you all on the 14th.

Remember, there will be no Sunday School on December 21 or December 28. These are family worship days. We encourage you to attend the Divine Liturgy as a family. Sunday School will resume on January 4.

13TH ANNUAL YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Young adults from all over the Bay Area are invited to come together for the 13th Annual Young Adult Christmas Party, which will take place at the San Francisco Metropolis House, 372 Santa Clara

Avenue, San Francisco, on Saturday, December 13, 2003, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. The suggested donation is \$10. For further information, please call 415 753-3075. To rsvp, please contact Mike Tervo, Metropolis Youth Director, by phone, at 559 338-2103 or by e mail, at:

mptervo@stnicholasranch.org.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE

Basketball practice for our children takes place on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sign-ups continue until December 10th, when rosters are handed in. For more information, please contact Mike Canellos at 415/864-8815.



Shown with his Godmother, Paula Kitses, newly baptized Christopher Demakas Hewitt, looks at his fellow Sunday School students

December 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		6-9:30 - Dance Practice	Greek School 4-6 pm - Children 6-8 pm - Adults			
9 - Orthros 10:30 - Liturgy & Sunday School 12 - Coffee Hour 12:30 - Bible Study	1	2	6:30 - Basketball Practice	3	4	5
		6-9:30 - Dance Practice	Greek School 4-6 pm - Children 6-8 pm - Adults	6:30 - Philoptochos General Meeting		7:30- Young Adult Christmas Party - Metropolis House
9 - Orthros 10:30 - Liturgy & Sunday School 12 - Coffee Hour 12:30 - Bible Study	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 - Orthros 10:30 - Liturgy & Sunday School 12 - Coffee Hour 12:30 - Bible Study -Parish Council Elections		6-9:30 - Dance Practice	Greek School 4-6 pm - Children 6-8 pm - Adults 6:30 - Basketball Practice			
9 - Orthros 10:30 - Liturgy 12 - Coffee Hour 12:30 - Bible Study	14	15	16	17	18	19
			9 - Great Hours 10 - Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil	CHRISTMAS 9:00 am - Orthros 10:30 am - Liturgy		
9 - Orthros 10:30 - Liturgy -Parish Council Swearing In 12 - Coffee Hour 12:30 - Bible Study	21	22	23	24	25	26
+ 28	29	30	31	SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:00 am - Orthros 10:30 am - Liturgy & Sunday School (Sunday School off 12/21 & 12/28) 12:00 - Coffee Hour 12:30 - Greek Bible Study		
						27

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

12/27/03

Holiday Ball

1/11/04

Holiday Brunch

& Vasilopeta

1/23/04

Philoptochos Crab Feed

2/21-22/04

Pre-Lenten

Spiritual Retreat

3/25/04

Annunciation Luncheon

4/11/04

Orthodox Pascha

Western Easter

5/8/04

Mother's Day Luncheon

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**22nd ANNUAL CRAB FEED**

Friday, January 23, 2004

No-host Refreshments-6:00 pm

Dinner - 7:30 pm

Admission: \$40.00

Limited to 600 -

First come, first served

Valet Parking available

Tickets must be paid for  
by January 9th

For Reservations call:

Anna Dricos @ 415/647-3853 or

Ackie Argyres @ 415/751-2180

**ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL**

245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320



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